



## **St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School**

7710 East State Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815  
749-5816

July 12, 2026 – 8:00am & 10:30am

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care  
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico  
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist  
Chris Brune, Principal  
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026 – 8:00am & 10:30am

## PRELUDES

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

arr. Theodore Beck

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

arr. Paul Manz

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

#901

*(We rise.)*

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** Who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

**P** Almighty God,  
**C** **Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF PRAYER and PREACHING ✠

*(LSB, pg. 260)*

### OPENING VERSICLES

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
**C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
**C** **Teach me Your paths.**

**P** Sanctify us in Your truth.  
**C** **Your Word is truth.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

# OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE ~ *Isaiah 12:2b-8*

(LSB, pgs. 261-262)

Soloist: The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

**All:**

*Refrain*



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Soloist: With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:  
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

**All:**

*Refrain*



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Soloist: Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion,  
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**All:**

*Refrain*



**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

**Soloist:**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**All:**

*Refrain*



**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*(We are seated.)*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

Psalm 65:9-13

**P** You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;  
**C** **the river of God is full of water;**  
**you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.**

**P** You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
**C** **softening it with showers,**  
**and blessing its growth.**

**P** You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.  
**C** **The pastures of the wilderness overflow,**  
**the hills gird themselves with joy,**

**P** the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.  
**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:12-17

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(We rise.)*

## CELTIC ALLELUIA

#952

*(Sung once by the soloist. / Then once by all.)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## HOLY GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear.

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word

and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*(We are seated.)*

## **ANTHEM**

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Sandy Armstrong, Soloist

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

*(We rise.)*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(We are seated.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”**      **#577**

**SERMON**

**“Slaves and Heirs”**

Text: Romans 8:12-17 – Pastor Nathan Widener

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and  
GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS**

**ANTHEM**

“As the Deer”

Sandy Armstrong, Soloist

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after You.  
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship You.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship You.

You’re my Friend and You are my Brother even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything.

You alone are my strength, my shield; To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy Giver, and the apple of my eye.  
You alone are my strength, my shield; To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P** Merciful Father,  
**C** **We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*(We rise.)*

## PRAYERS

- P** Trusting in the steadfast love of the Lord, who gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

- P** Lord of the harvest, You scatter Your gifts like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate Your Church by Your abundant Spirit, that it may bear fruit for the sake of Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Creator of heaven and earth, Your bountiful creation reflects Your steadfast commitment to life, even when we disregard its wonder. Fulfill Your promise that all creation will rejoice and the trees will clap their hands for joy at Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Your Spirit You raised Jesus from the dead. Set our minds on the things of Your Spirit whenever fear, grief, or violence overwhelm people throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Bread of Life, You feed the hungry and give rest to the weary. Provide daily bread for children who rely on school meals, refreshment for those who labor in the heat, help for those living with chronic illness and exhausted resources, and care for local needs (*especially those we have named and those we name silently in our hearts...*). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, from whom every good and perfect gift comes, tend this congregation by Your grace throughout the summer season. Keep those who travel for work or recreation safe, and make us a place of welcome and refreshment for all who visit among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

**P** God of all generations, Your goodness runs deep through the history of Your people. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us in faith. Keep us steadfast in the faith until we join them in the joy of Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,**

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve You.

**C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(We are seated.)*

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“On What Has Now Been Sown”**

**#921**

**POSTLUDE**

“Maestoso”

Hermann Schroeder